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He Rode Into Town on a Dinosaur

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HE RODE INTO TOWN ON A DINOSAUR

Jim Ketchum

I've got cavemen with hammers in my head and they're
shouting at me but they can't speak english
So I run to the sink and try to get cold
water in my ears to wash them out and I hear
chimes and rhythmic tickings—they're beating with polished
sticks on animal skulls—Ah!

In all this excitement I forgot what I was going to say!
At the bus stop my exact change fell down a grating!
For lunch I had the blue-plate special!
Um-hmm, t.v. was good tonight!

I hate to go to the bars
I hate taxicabs and cars
I listen to my mom on the thing called the phone
“find a nice girl, get married”
Supermarkets are fun, but eventually they kick you out because you
don't buy anything

I follow guys down the street like spies
I don't have the time to read!
I won't wear one of those!
I take the garbage out and then people see me!
I know what every Ginsberg thinks!
I saw the best minds of my generation disturbed forever by giant
electric antennae on the roof of every house!

Clams, Clams
Giant Clams, man
On your roof, man. On your walls
Mucho dinero, Uncle Sam
Your shoelaces were untied while I waited on tables! Hah!

In all this excitement I wore a hat
In all this excitement I calmed down
In all this excitement I never ironed my shirts!
In all this pornographic excitement America fell down like
colored mushroom-shaped tears on my pillow

Beverly sat at the edge of the bed and didn't know what to say
She stared at the floor or looked for memories out the window
She was cute with her broken tooth

America where do you go when I need you!
America sing to me!
America please I'm falling apart
America know my name
America you're proud and a little bit crazy
America you're a pornographic sex-party with dark staring eyes

I fell asleep and dreamed of you
You never told me what to do
Where do you go when I need you America?